

System Configuration Team (SCT)

**Meeting Notes
September 26, 2002**

Greetings and Introductions.

The September 26, 2002 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS and facilitated by Richard Forester. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin read a round of introductions, a review of the agenda and the notes from the August 22 SCT meeting.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

2. Update on FY'02 CRFM Funding.

John Kranda said the Corps wound up with enough FY'02 funding to purchase the needed tags for both the Portland and Walla Walla districts. He added that the supervisors of the corner collector project have requested some additional money to pay their contractor before the end of the fiscal year; we have \$800,000 available for that project in FY'02, he said, and it is unlikely that we're going to find any additional funds for that contract this year.

3. Update on the Ice Harbor North Shore Auxiliary Water Supply Pumps Status.

Hevlin said there had been a special FFDRWG conference call to discuss the Ice Harbor AWS pumps issue. The main topic was the problem we talked about at the last SCT, poor hydraulics in the pumping area, said Mike Mason. There was some question about whether or not we were going to suspend this contract, Mason said; the Corps has since decided to proceed with the contract while doing some additional modeling. As you'll recall, he said, the contractor is installing three new higher-capacity pumps.

As Mike said, the Corps is going to go ahead with the contract, said Steve Rainey; the modeling effort is to support the design of a specially modified pump intake. Any sort of new insert or modified intake will need to be built and installed in FY'03, Rainey said. Does that mean the cost of this project will increase in FY'03? Hevlin asked. Not necessarily, Mason replied.

4. Update on John Day Adult Ladder Improvements Contract.

To bring you up to date, said Hevlin, at our last meeting, we reached consensus that this is a high-priority item for FY'03. Since then, however, the cost has increased from \$1.3 million to \$2.5 million, Kranda said. The reality is that our final government estimate was pretty close to the final bid, which was from a minority contractor, he said; there were some who thought we would see some savings if we put this contract out for general bid, but it does not appear that would be the case. We can still award this contract in the next couple of days and meet the schedule to have this project in place by next season, Kranda said, if we decide to move forward at today's meeting. He suggested that the SCT address this decision in the course of Agenda Item 5, below; it was so agreed.

One hundred percent is a substantial increase in cost, said Ron Boyce – has the Corps identified any potential areas of savings? It doesn't appear so, Kranda replied; he explained that sometimes, the cost estimates developed by Corps engineers simply don't match up with the bids that are ultimately received. We probably need more contingency built into our early estimates, because there is always something people haven't thought about, Kranda said – as we learn more and more about a given project, those cost estimates inevitably shift one way or another.

5. FY'03 CRFM Program Prioritization.

Hevlin distributed Enclosure C, his attempt to summarize the outcome of the SCT's August 22 discussion of FY'03 CRFM priorities. Kranda distributed Enclosure D, an updated version of the FY'03 CRFM spreadsheet; the bottom line is that the revised FY'03 estimate of the cost of the total program has gone down from \$93 million to \$88.4 million, Kranda said.

He spent a few minutes going through the changes to the latest version of the spreadsheet, noting that there is no change to the \$85 million-\$87 million House and Senate recommendations for FY'03 CRFM funding. That means we'll likely have about \$72 million to work with initially, until savings and slippage can be restored, said Kranda. We have been advised by our management to continue to be aggressive, as we were in FY'02, and assume that we will ultimately have \$85 million-\$87 million to work with, Kranda said. Absent any other guidance, he said, that will be our plan, and we'll move out on the line-items up to that \$85 million funding point. Rock Peters noted that close of comment on FY'03 studies is October 4.

The group then went through the new spreadsheet line by line, discussing the changes to each project description and cost estimate. Kranda noted that all of the changed items are highlighted in grey:

1. B2 surface bypass: amount spent in FY'03 increased by \$3 million, to \$33.4 million; overall cost of contract stays the same; contractor planning an aggressive work schedule to essentially finish the project in FY'03
2. Bonn. juvenile fish studies: FY'03 estimate revised downward by \$1.4 million; survival studies only in FY'03, with guidance studies and hydroacoustic work deferred
3. B2 DSM, monitoring and outfall: FY'03 cost reduced by \$175,000, to \$325,000
4. B2 FGE: FY'03 cost reduced by \$100,000 to \$1.1 million, covering gap closure study and debris handling study. More scrubbing at FFDRWG may be needed.
5. Bonn flat-plate PIT detector: no change
6. Ice Harbor AWS: no change
7. Ice Harbor adult PIT detectors: no change
8. John Day mitigation evaluation (Ringgold): no change
9. John Day ladder jumping and holding: FY'03 cost estimate increased by \$1.175 million to \$2.5 million
10. Lower Granite adult PIT detectors: FY'03 cost now \$150,000
11. Lower Monumental outfall relocation: no change
12. Lower Monumental gas fasttrack: cost reduced by \$220,000; contractor completed more work than expected in FY'02
13. Lower Monumental spillway efficiency/survival studies: FY'03 cost increased by \$700,000 to \$2.5 million, added hydroacoustics. Possible part of three-project (Lower Monumental, Ice Harbor, McNary) survival study, which could yield significant efficiency improvements
14. Lower Monumental barge loading improvements: no change
15. The Dalles adult channel dewatering: FY'03 cost reduced by \$400,000; better estimate
16. The Dalles spillway and sluiceway survival studies: connected to line-item 38; FY'03 cost estimate reduced by \$1.2 million, to \$2.8 million. Will include spillway Hi-Z, sluiceway and turbine RT in 2003. Boyce comments may not need sluiceway in FY'03
17. The Dalles spillway modifications: no change; engineering studies and modeling only, major construction costs to come in FY'04
18. System – less-intrusive PIT monitoring: no change; still some questions about cost and location (John Day? Ice Harbor? Lower Monumental?). Ultimately, the SCT recommended that this study be sent back to FFDRWG for decision on which dam should be the priority, and discussion of the feasibility of doing the study at all. If unresolvable, zero funding for this line-item in FY'03.
19. System – delayed mortality/multiple bypass evaluation: cost reduced by \$1.58 million, to \$3.27 million; study scrubbed and FY'02 tag purchase deducted from cost; similar objectives allowed these two studies to be combined, with concomitant increase in efficiency and reduction in cost (contact Rebecca Kalamasz for details)

20. System – estuary PIT recovery: FY'03 cost reduced by \$500,000 (BPA share)
21. System – high-flow PIT: FY'03 cost increased by \$550,000, to \$750,000 (better estimate –original estimate very rough)
22. System – investigate headburn: no change
23. Estuary studies: no change in cost, but still controversial -- some question about redundancy. Questions will be resolved through SRWG
24. B2 fish units intake debris: cost reduced from \$2.125 million to \$200,000; will do dredging and complete plans and specs only in FY'03, with construction in FY'04
25. Lower Granite AWS: no change; continue construction
26. McNary extended-length screens: no change; need to complete modifications
27. Ice Harbor flow deflectors (spill/survival studies): FY'03 cost estimate increased by \$300,000, to \$1.5 million (better estimate)
28. Little Goose extended-length screens: no change
29. Lower Granite extended-length screens: no change
30. System – turbine passage survival PH1: slight FY'03 cost increase to \$280,000, for finishing the PH1 report and coordination only
31. McNary forebay debris control: FY'03 estimate reduced by \$1 million, to \$200,000, if line-item is deferred in favor of ongoing debris removal
32. Lower Granite surface bypass program: virtually no cost change after detailed scrubbing
33. Bonneville adult PIT: FY'03 cost halved by \$200,000; work to proceed at Bonneville only, despite the fact that funding is available for The Dalles and John Day as well in FY'03
34. The Dalles sluiceway outfall/emergency AWS: defer to FY'04; FY'03 cost reduced from \$1.1 million to \$50,000
35. Estuary – avian predation: no change
36. Bonneville adult fallback: estimate reduced to zero; defer DDR, continue with adult AFEP
37. Lower Monumental ESBS evaluations: FY'03 cost reduced to zero, no tests required (?)
38. The Dalles surface bypass: FY'03 cost reduced by \$4.5 million, to \$1.1 million, do forebay hydroacoustics only in FY'03. Connected to line-item 16.
39. System – multiple bypass evaluation: combined with delayed mortality into Line Item 19
40. Little Goose juvenile facility PIT tag improvements: \$50,000 in closeout costs only in FY'03
41. Lower Monumental adult PIT detectors: no change
42. Lower Monumental removable spillway weir: no change
43. McNary adult PIT detectors: no change
44. Bonneville PH2 AWS: slight increase to \$300,000 based on need for post-corner collector
45. John Day biological studies: scrubbing yields slight reduction in FY'03 cost; options range from \$2.3 million to \$4 million
46. McNary gas fasttrack: cost reduced to \$200,000 (from \$675,000), some confusion about what funding will be used for -- spill patterns/scheduling or near-field TDG testing? NMFS recommends spill patterns/scheduling first; FFDRWG

- to discuss.
47. McNary spillway efficiency/survival study: FY'03 cost estimate increased from \$1.8 million to \$2.5 million – scrub further, defer, combine with Line-Item 13? SRWG to discuss further.
 48. System – adult passage AFEP: no change, but some question of whether adult fallback portion of study is needed (Tom Lorz, CRITFC)
 49. John Day surface bypass: deferral of mobile hydroacoustics reduces FY'03 cost from \$1 million to \$250,000.
 50. McNary temperature control: recommendation to eliminate biological studies and finish cfd model only reduces FY'03 cost from \$900,000 to \$350,000
 51. Bonneville: implement gas fasttrack: wrap-up and decision document only in FY'03; cost estimate reduced from \$890,000 to \$330,000
 52. John Day extended-length screens: recommendation: determine VBS problem, repair and run, with small (\$90,000) biological test. FY'03 cost estimate reduced from \$1 million to \$650,000.
 53. System – turbine passage survival, Phase 2: deferrable? monitor only model work for best operating point for Bonneville minimum gap runner. FY'03 cost reduced from \$2.6 million to \$150,000
 54. Bonneville PH1 DSM, monitoring and outfall: smart shutdown only; FY'03 cost reduced from \$335,000 to \$70,000
 55. Bonneville PH1 FGE: smart shutdown only; FY'03 cost reduced from \$900,000 to \$40,000
 56. B1 surface bypass: defer removal; FY'03 cost reduced from \$850,000 to zero

Other line-items of note included #63 (system -- separator evaluation), which needs more SRWG discussion; #66 (Little Goose gas fasttrack), reduced from \$725,000 to \$500,000 to allow the Corps to finish model studies and design, #68 (lamprey passage studies) -- \$328,000 for closeout plus lamprey bypass test, \$120,000 for shutdown only. The group also discussed Line-Item 80 (system cylindrical dewatering), reduced from \$300,000 to \$80,000 for close-out only.

The group discussed Line-Item 93, the \$500,000 system surface bypass compendium; Kranda noted that the jury is still out on this line-item. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the cost estimate for this line-item needs further scrubbing; in the interim, Kranda said he will retain the \$500,000 estimate as a placeholder. The group also discussed Line-Items 94, 95 and 96, the Lower Monumental, The Dalles and John Day decision documents (total estimated cost -- \$250,000); there was general SCT agreement that Kranda will allocate \$200,000 each for decision documents for the Lower Snake and Lower Columbia projects.

Kranda also added several new, unranked studies for SCT consideration in FY'03: an innovative acoustic camera study to look at how juvenile salmon enter surface bypass systems at five dams (\$400,000), add flume study at McNary (\$200,000), add flood control study (tentative) (\$300,000). It was agreed that the SCT participants will provide their written comments on all of these unranked proposals to Rock Peters. Kranda noted that the Corps' decision to purchase tags for both districts,

using FY'02 funds, had saved \$650,000 in costs that would otherwise have been assigned to FY'03.

Boyce noted that some of the studies under consideration for FY'03 still need more discussion; Rod Woodin agreed. I don't care where that discussion occurs, Boyce said, but there are a few proposals that need further refinement. Rock Peters replied that any discussion of proposal revisions will need to take place in October; otherwise, it will be too late to order tags. Peters added that technical issues associated with research are addressed by SRWG, not SCT. Again, said Boyce, I don't care where that discussion takes place – this committee has budgetary responsibility over the studies. In response to a question from Boyce, Peters said any controversial high-priority studies would be discussed during a series of special meetings, at which, hopefully, all issues can be resolved. He emphasized, however, that the Corps retains final authority for budgetary decisions. Peters reiterated that written comments on the FY'03 study proposals are due by October 4.

Kranda noted that the total cost of all of these line-items, including the unprioritized ones, is \$88.4 million, somewhat in excess of the maximum CRFM budget allocation of \$87 million. Do we want to continue to make cuts, Kranda asked, or do we want to rely on further scrubbing to get us down to the area we need to be? I suggest that we set \$85 million as the ceiling within which SRWG has to work, said David Wills, and tell them that, if they can't scrub this list down to that level, SCT will begin cutting line-items.

Which contracts need to be renewed, issued or cut, and when? Boyce asked. I think the only line-item we need to make an immediate decision on is John Day ladder jumping and holding, Item 9, Hevlin replied. If we move out on that, he said, we may need to make some cuts elsewhere. After a brief discussion, no SCT objections were raised to the Corps issuing the contract for Line-Item 9. It was further agreed that the SCT will come to the next meeting prepared to rank all of the projects below Line-Item 44 (the \$74.6 million cumulative funding line).

Kranda suggested that it shouldn't be too difficult to find \$2 million in cuts on this list; he said he is comfortable with starting the year with an \$86 million CRFM program.

6. Updates on FFDRWG, SRWG, Construction Projects and Research Results.

This topic was not explicitly addressed at today's meeting.

7. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for 9 a.m. Tuesday, October 22 at NMFS' Portland offices. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.